AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

(Original) A method for detecting misalignment of two periodic structures placed 1. next to each other so that they are periodic substantially along a first line, comprising:

illuminating a portion of each of the two structures using radiation that is substantially coherent, each of said portions having a dimension along the first line larger than the period of the corresponding structure;

detecting diffracted radiation signals from the illuminated portions of the structures to provide at least one output signal; and

determining from the at least one output signal a misalignment between the structures.

2 - 43. (Cancelled)

Certificate of Mailing Under 37 CFR 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope address to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA

22313-1450, on August 12, 2004

Franklin Dyer

Respectfully submitted,

Reg. No. 29,545